

**THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor :Franco PRETI, et al.

Filed :Concurrently herewith

For : TOOL FOR HANDLING WAFER...

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 26, 2004

**Preliminary Amendment**

Sir:

Prior to issuance of an Office Action, please amend the application as follows: